

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) announced today that fire departments in the Birmingham metropolitan area are receiving \$372,403 in federal grants.

"These federal grants will offer better protection for firefighters and those they serve in our communities," said Bachus. "We are working in Congress to get our brave firefighters and other emergency personnel the resources they desperately need for better training, newer equipment and fire prevention programs."

The grant, authorized by a law passed by Congress in October of 2000, is distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Under the grants announced today, the Rex Lake Fire District will receive \$157,500 to purchase a firefighting vehicle and the Vestavia Hills Fire Department will receive \$89,344 for fire prevention efforts. The other area fire departments, Glennwood Fire District in Morris (\$52,468), the Palmerdale Fire District in Pinson (\$69,750) and the Bessemer Fire Department (\$66,121), will use the federal grants to fund training and equipment purchases.

The law under which the grant is authorized (the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act), enables the federal government to provide up to 90 percent of the cost of training and new equipment that protect firefighters and the community. The local communities provide the remaining 10 percent of the cost.